Nov. 27, 1949

Has the Modern Mania started
over in Belgium?

HAS THE MODERN MAN A VITAL USE FOR RELIGION?

Intro.

1. What do we mean by a modern man?
   a. Mind disillusioned from fear and superstition by scientific knowledge of the world in which he lives.
   b. Self-reliant and self-sufficient because of modern efficient methods and vast means. Science and wealth have made him a super man.
   c. Consequently, he does not feel the need of religion as his fathers did. Seemingly he can get along very well without it.

To such a man what service can religion render?

Text. 1 Cor.2:4-5 And my speech and my preaching were not in persuasive words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power that your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God.

These not the words of an ignorant man but ~~those~~ but of one highly educated according to the best knowledge of his day.

Paul places in sharp contrast the knowledge of the world and faith in God according to Jesus Christ.

But Paul's world was not our world.

His world was intellectually decadent
politically bound by despotism
religiously, its pagan faiths outworn
morally rotten from slums to palace.

Not so our world.

1. Intellectually, our generation, perhaps more than any other has made most rapid strides. Our modern knowledge has created a greater reverence for Life itself. Modern knowledge creates a profound respect for the laws of nature, for the way nature works, teaching us how to co-operate with her.
2. Politically, ours is the age of democracy, of granting freedom and guaranteeing justice to all peoples.
3. Religiously, the Golden Rule and the greatest commandment according to Jesus Christ- that of loving God and fellow-man-, especially the latter part of loving our fellow men, are almost universally recognozed as the standard of right living. Our sense of right and wrong was never so keen as to-day.

4.Morally, the sense of right and wrong was neverso keen as it is today. We have added to the individual conscience a social conscience and a nationd conconscience.

Our modern world in its knowledge and living stands in sharp contrast to the world in which Paul lived, it is infinitely superior in every respect.

If Paul were here, could he mke the same distinction between our modern world knowledge and religion as he did when he ~~~~~ wrote the words of our text? If he could not, then religion ~~~~ is of no vital use to the modern man. This brings us to a direct consideration of the question which is ours to answer this morning, Has the modern man a vital use for religion?.

I. Modern scientific knowledge simply brings the facts of life to light:it does not interpret the facts, nor does it aim to do so.

The interpretation of the facts, and consequent use or misuse of the facts, is a matter for each man to find out for himself.

1.Looking backward toward the beginning of things.

a. Science points out the various stages of development from cause to effect, leaving the First Cause unaccounted for- and rightfully so for science has no means of discovering it by its own method.

b. Religion, pointing to all the facts of universal development, declares,"In the beginning God ~~~~ created the heavens and the earth."

Before it all and back of it all and in it all is God- creative intelligence and will.

2. Looking forward to the end of things.

a. This earth was aged when man first appeared upon it. It is destined to reach the stage of decay in which man will have to fight for his very existance upon it and finally man must succumb until no living thing can remain on the earth. The earth becoming like the moon. Physically speaking, the end of man is annihilation. The grim facts of science, uninterpreted, lead man to conclude that death is the end of him.

b. Religion, however, gives an interpretation to these facts which makes man victorious in his fight against physical environment, which makes him a conqueror over death itself.

Read the testimony of the Country Doctor.

3.Lokking at our here and now, the modern man, for his right living, needs religion to help him make the right use of

3# his modern knowledge, for his daily needs.

The modern man still possess human nature that is prone to do wrong, liable to error, apt to make mistakes, and inclined to become selfish. His modern knowledge is not sufficient to enable him to overcome his weaknesses he needs the power and Spirit of the First Cause which brot all things into being: he needs God- the Spirit and power of God to make him that conqueror of self and environment which will enable him to live his best here and enter his everlasting highest hereafter.

And Jesus Christ is the highest and truest interpreter of God to man.